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LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by the President of the Republic of Indonesia and the text of press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on 17 January 1991 regarding recent developments in the Gulf.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Statement issued on 17 January 1991 by the President of the Republic of Indonesia regarding recent developments in the Gulf

President Soeharto expressed his deep concern with the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf and hoped that the war could end soon. The Head of State said that if the cessation of the conflict could be achieved at the earliest, new measures would be taken in order to bring about the settlement of the Middle East problems in general, and the Palestinian question in particular, through peaceful means.

He observed that the Indonesian position with regard to the Palestinian issue has been clear in the support extended to the struggle of the Palestinian people for independence and nationhood in their own sovereign State.

The Head of State reiterated that the termination of hostilities as soon as possible would be of great importance as it could prevent greater casualties and further destruction of economic infrastructures, which will have detrimental consequences on the Middle East region. Moreover, if the Gulf war is protracted, its impact on the world economy would also be felt.

Annex II

Press statement issued on 17 January 1991 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, regarding recent developments in the Gulf

The Government of Indonesia, which has since the very beginning of the Gulf crisis hoped for a peaceful settlement through negotiations, is very much saddened that all those endeavours could not bring about the desired results and in consequence the use of force is being resorted to.

Until the last moment various attempts were made by many parties, including the United Nations Secretary-General, asking Iraq to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council to withdraw from Kuwait, so that once the present crisis was resolved, efforts to settle the other big problems of the Middle East region which have caused so much turmoil and suffering could be initiated.

We express our deepest concern that the outbreak of the armed conflict will have far-reaching ramifications not only on the countries directly involved but also on world peace and stability, as well as the international economy.

We express our sincere hope and pray that the war may be ended soon so that the casualties and material damage could be limited.